Claims

1. Method for ensuring the operating state of a mobile electronic terminal device (20), said mobile electronic terminal device (20) comprising an interface (4) for connecting with a removable storage medium (2) and containing a directory (14) of programs essential for the operation of said mobile electronic terminal device (20), the method comprising:
   - detecting if the status of said interface has changed (102);
   - comparing (108) programs currently running on said mobile electronic terminal device (20) with programs contained in said directory (14) of said essential programs; and
   - terminating (110) all currently running programs which are not contained in said directory (14) of said essential programs.

2. Method according to claim 1, wherein a status change of said interface (4) indicates that a removable storage medium (2) has been connected with said interface (4).

3. Method according to claim 1, wherein a status change of said interface (4) indicates that a removable storage medium (2) has been disconnected from said interface (4).

4. Method according to claim 3, wherein the step of detecting, if the status of said interface (4) has changed, is followed by:
   - determining (104) which programs currently running on said mobile electronic terminal device (20) are independent of data stored on said removable storage medium (2); and
   - adding (106) said independent programs to said directory (14) of said essential programs.

5. Method according to claims 3 or 4, wherein said mobile electronic terminal device (20) contains a restart directory, and the steps in claim 4 are followed by:
   - determining which of said programs that are not contained in said directory (14) of essential programs are restartable without accessing said removable storage medium (2); and
   - adding said restartable programs to said restart directory.

6. Method according to claim 5, further comprising:

- restarting all programs in said restart directory.

7. Method according to anyone of the preceding claims, wherein said interface (4) is queried to detect if the status of said interface (4) has changed.

8. Method according to claim 7, wherein said querying is constantly repeated every n seconds.

9. Method according to claim 7 or 8, wherein said querying is paused when said mobile electronic terminal device (20) is in a power saving state.

10. Method according to anyone of the preceding claims, wherein a signal is received to detect if the status of said interface (4) has changed.

11. Software tool comprising program code means stored on a computer readable medium for carrying out the method of anyone of the preceding claims when said software tool is run on a computer or network device.

12. Computer program product comprising program code means stored on a computer readable medium for carrying out the method of anyone of the preceding method claims when said program product is run on a computer or network device.

13. Computer program product comprising program code, downloadable from a server for carrying out the method of anyone of the preceding method claims when said program product is run on a computer or network device.

14. Computer data signal embodied in a carrier wave and representing a program that instructs a computer to perform the steps of the method of anyone of the preceding method claims.

15. Mobile electronic terminal device (20), comprising:
- an interface component (4) for connecting with a removable storage medium (2);
- a data processing component (6); and

- a storage component (8),

wherein said storage component (8) is adapted to store directories (14) of programs, and said interface component (4) is adapted to enable said data processing component (6) to access said removable storage medium (2), characterized in that

said storage component (8) comprises a directory (14) of programs essential for the operation of said mobile electronic terminal device (20), and said data processing component (6) comprises a detecting component (10), a comparing component (12) and a terminating component (16), wherein said detecting component (10) is adapted to detect status changes of said interface component (4), said comparing component (12) is adapted to compare programs currently running on said mobile electronic terminal device (20) with programs contained in said directory (14) of said essential programs, and said terminating component (16) is adapted to terminate programs currently running on said mobile electronic terminal device (20) that are not contained in said directory (14) of said essential programs.

16. Device according to claim 15, further comprising a determining component (26) and an adding component (24), wherein said determining component (26) is adapted to determine, which programs are independent of accessing said removable storage medium (2), and said adding component (24) is adapted to add said independent programs to said directory (14) of said essential programs.

17. Device according to claim 16, wherein said determining component (26) is adapted to determine which currently running programs that are not contained in said directory (14) of essential programs can be restarted without accessing said removable storage medium (2), said adding component (24) is adapted to generate a directory containing said programs that can be restarted, and said terminating component (16) is adapted to restart said programs contained in said directory of programs that can be restarted.

18. Device according to anyone of claims 15 to 17, wherein said interface component (4) further comprises a trigger component (18) adapted to generate a signal when the status of said interface component (4) changes.

19. Device according to claim 18, wherein said signal indicates that a removable storage medium (2) has been connected with said interface (4).

20. Device according to claim 18, wherein said signal indicates that a removable storage medium (2) has been disconnected from said interface (4).

21. Device according to anyone of claims 15 to 20, wherein said interface component (4) comprises a status indicator (22) adapted to indicate read or write accesses to said removable storage medium (2).

22. Device according to anyone of claims 15 to 21, wherein said mobile electronic terminal device (20) is a mobile phone.

23. Device according to anyone of claims 15 to 22, wherein said mobile electronic terminal device (20) is a gaming console.